

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 SCSE-00 SCA-01 CU-04 SY-05 OPR-02

OC-05 CCO-00 /096 W

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R 171425Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7537

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1776

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: SECURITY INCIDENTS AND PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: JERUSALEM 1758, 1776, 1772

1. SUMMARY: THREE SMALL EXPLOSIONS IN RAMALLAH/EL BIREH AND ADDITIONAL STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEVERAL WEST BANK TOWNS OCCURRED DURING PAST WEEKEND. WHILE SECURITY FORCES MORE IN EVIDENCE AND SEARCHES AT RAODBLOCKS MORE FREQUENT AND THOROUGH, NO SPECIFIC NEW SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED IN JERUSALEM. SOME STONING OF ISRAELI CARS BY ARABS AND ARAB BUSES AND TAXIS BY ISRAELIS IS REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO SMALL BOMS EXPLODED UNDER ISRAELI CARS NOV. 15, ONE IN RAMALLAH AND ANOTHER IN SISTER TOWN OF EL BIREH. ONE ISRAELI ARAB, RESIDENT OF VILLAGE WEST OF JERUSALEM REPORTEDLY INJURED, NOT SERIOUSLY, AND CARS DAMAGED.

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THIRD SIMILAR EXPLOSION OCCURRED NEAR LABOR EXCHANGE IN

RAMALLAH NOV. 16, WITHOUT DAMAGE OR INJURIES.

3. STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED ALONG LINES OF THOSE REPORTED EARLIER. BRIEF DISTURBANCES WERE REPORTED IN SEVERAL NABLUS SCHOOLS ON BOTH NOV. 15 AND 16, AND A STUDENT SIT-IN OCCURRED AT SCHOOL IN BEIT JALA NOV. 15. VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION SAID TO HAVE BEEN DISPERSED BY SECURITY FORCES IN HALHUL, JUST NORTH OF HEBRON, ON NOV. 16. SEVERAL STUDENTS WERE DETAINED BY POLICE THERE AND IN CONNECTION WITH NABLUS DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT DETAILS NOT RELEASED BY AUTHORITIES. ALL DEMONSTRATIONS OSTENSIBLY TO PROTEST LOCAL ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS BUT ARE MORE GENERALLY ANTI-ISRAELI AND PRO-PALESTINIAN IN CHARACTER.

4. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS OF STONING OF ARAB TAXIS AND BUSES IN SOUTH JERUSALEM, ON ROAD TO ETHLEHEM, WITH SOME DAMAGE TO VEHICLE WINDOWS. SIMILARLY, PRESS REPORTS STONING OF ISRAELI CARS ON OUTSKIRTS OF HEBRON. INCIDENTS APPEAR, HOWEVER, TO BE LIMITED IN NUMBER AND NOT SERIOUS IN NATURE. ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS REPORTS 14 ISRAELIS ARRESTED FOR ATTACKS ON WEST BANK ARABS; ALL BUT 2 RELEASED ON BAIL.

5. SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN BEEFED UP IN JERUSALEM AND NEARBY AREAS AND ARE MUCH IN EVIDENCE, PARTICULARLY IN EAST-WEST BORDER AREAS OF JERUSALEM AND IN AND AROUND OLD CITY. ROADBLOCKS AND PEDESTRIAN CHECKPOINTS MORE NUMEROUS AND SEARCHES OF ARAB VEHICLES MORE THOROUGH, BUT NO NEW RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED. MAYOR KOLLEK INDICATED TO CONGESS NOV. 15 THAT NEW SECURITY MEASURES FOR CITY NOT PLANNED BEYOND INTENSIFICATION OF EXISTING MEASURES, SUCH AS VEHICLE AND PARCEL CHECKS. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAS BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARY BAN ON DEPARTURE OF ARABS UNDER 40 YEARS OF AGE FROM WEST BANK VIA JORDAN RIVER BRIDGES.

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